

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: June 11-17, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights

6/13: Laudon conducted a monitoring flight in Northwest Montana.

6/15: Bradley conducted a monitoring flight in Western Montana.

6/16: Nelson conducted a monitoring flight in Southwest Montana.

6/17: Ross conducted a monitoring flight in Southwest Montana.

6/17: Lance conducted a monitoring flight in Southwest Montana.

6/16 Geri Werhahn began work as a full time volunteer for the wolf program in Region One. Geri comes to us from Switzerland – Welcome Geri!

6/12-6/18: Region 1 team conducted den surveys in the Chippy, Corona, Hot Springs area, Mullan, Piper, Condon, Holland Lake area and Cilly packs. Denning is suspected in the Hot Springs area, and Condon pack. Active den sites in the Chippy, Corona, Mullan, Piper, Cilly and Holland Lake area have not yet been detected.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

6/12-6/15: An adult collared female wolf was trapped and killed on a private ranch east of Darby (6/12) as part of the control action that resulted from the May 23 conflict. On 6/15 WS trapped and collared a yearling male from the Divide Creek pack. On 6/16 WS

flew and killed two wolves (an adult male and a yearling male). The control action is now finished with a total of 4 wolves killed and 1 wolf collared.

6/14: WS confirmed that a wolf or wolves killed two calves on separate incidents on private land near Wisdom. This is new wolf activity in the area. WS has been authorized to collar and release a wolf to learn more about the wolf activity in the area. They have also been authorized to take any wolf returning to the ranch and incident area for two weeks, this may be extended if wolf activity continues in the area.

6/16: WS investigated a report of 3 wolves killing a calf on private land near Divide. WS determined that it was unconfirmed and that it died of other causes and the wolves were just scavenging on the dead calf.

6/17: WS confirmed two calves were killed by wolves in the Pleasant Valley area. The location is in between two pack home ranges. Both packs were involved in livestock depredations in 2010. WS has been authorized to remove two wolves on site.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

6/15: Nelson gave a talk to the Harlowton Kiwanis club on wolf management. About 20 in attendance.

6/16: Laudon gave a talk on the current status of wolves and the Montana wolf program to the Troy Business and Professionals Club. About 24 in attendance.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

6/14: Nelson picked up an uncollared dead wolf in the Paradise Valley. The case is under investigation.

OTHER UPDATES: Nothing to report.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.